

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims now pending. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing image formation based on image-formation data, said image processing apparatus ~~causing a~~ comprising:

receiving means for receiving job data to include said that includes the image-formation data and a communication program procedure for communicating with an external ~~unit, and~~ unit; and

control means for controlling said the image formation in accordance with a result of ~~communicating with said~~ the communication with the external unit based on ~~said the~~ communication procedure in said program in the job data,

wherein ~~said the~~ communication program comprises procedure is a restriction procedure for restricting the use of ~~said the~~ image processing apparatus for each user.

2. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ communication program procedure determines whether to allow a user, who requests to print, to print or not by querying an external information apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ communication program procedure determines whether or not

said image processing apparatus allows a user to print, by referring to the number of sheets of information the user already has printed and the number of sheets of information which can be printed by the user, stored in ~~said~~ the external unit.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein ~~said~~ the communication program comprises ~~procedure~~ is a procedure for communicating with a charging management unit for collecting charging information for charging each user for the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein ~~said~~ the communication program comprises ~~procedure~~ is a procedure for communicating with an image-formation-history management unit for recording the history of the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus for each user.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the restriction procedure restricts based on the number of formed images the use of said image processing apparatus.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the communication program ~~procedure~~ is used to pay a value necessary for image formation.

8/9

(Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the communication program ~~procedure~~ is independent for each image to be formed.

9/10

(Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 and ^{6 8}7 to 9, wherein ~~said~~ the external unit comprises is a computer.

10/11

(Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus connected to an external unit via a network, said image processing apparatus comprising:

C, communication means for communicating with ~~said~~ the external unit, said communication means being configured to receive job data that includes image-formation data and a communication program for communicating with the external unit;

image processing means for generating image data from the image-formation data;

image output means for outputting to a medium images based on ~~said~~ the image data; and

control means for controlling said image processing means and said image output means in accordance with a result of the communication with the external unit by executing the communication program in the job data, data;

~~wherein said communication means receives job data including said image-formation data and a procedure for communicating with said external unit, and said control means executes said procedure in said job data to communicate with said external~~

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unit, whereby controlling image-output processing based on said image-formation data in accordance with a result of the communication with said external unit,

wherein the job data is not required to be transmitted via a print server, and

C, ~~said the~~ external unit is comprises an image-formation-history management unit for recording the history of the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus for each user, and for restricting the use of said image processing apparatus based on the number of formed images.

¹¹ 12. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim ¹⁰ 1/1, wherein an apparatus for supplying ~~said the~~ job data to said image processing apparatus is connected to ~~said the~~ network.

¹² 13. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim ¹⁰ 1/1, wherein ~~said the~~ external unit is comprises a charging management unit for collecting charging information for charging each user for the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus.

[14. (Cancelled)

¹³ 15. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim ¹⁰ 1/1, wherein ~~said the~~ external unit is comprises a charge collector for charging each user for a value necessary for image formation.

¹⁴
~~16.~~ (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim ¹⁰ 1, wherein ~~said~~ the job data is independent for each image to be formed.

¹⁵
~~17.~~ (Currently Amended) A machine-readable recording medium containing a program for controlling an image processing apparatus forming images based on image-formation data, said program comprising:

C,
code for a reception step, of receiving ~~from the exterior~~ job data including ~~said~~ the image-formation data and a procedure second program for predetermined processing performing predetermined procedures; and

code for a control step, of controlling image formation in accordance with the received procedure second program,

wherein the job data is not required to be transmitted via a print server, and

the received ~~procedure is~~ second program comprises a restriction procedure for restricting the use of ~~said~~ the image processing apparatus.

¹⁶
~~18.~~ (Currently Amended) A machine-readable recording medium containing a program controlling an image processing apparatus forming images based on image-formation data, said program comprising:

code for an ~~include~~ addition step, of ~~causing~~ adding to job data to ~~include~~ said the image formation data and a communication program procedure for communicating with an external unit; and

code for a control step, of controlling ~~said the~~ image formation in accordance with a result of the communication with ~~said the~~ external unit based on ~~said the~~ communication program added to the procedure ~~included in said~~ job data,

wherein the job data is not required to be transmitted via a print server, and

~~said the~~ communication program comprises procedure ~~is a~~ restriction procedure for restricting the use of ~~said the~~ image processing apparatus.

C₁ [19-32. (Cancelled)

¹⁷~~33.~~ (Currently Amended) An image processing method for controlling an image processing apparatus performing image formation based on image-formation data, said image processing method comprising:

an ~~include~~ addition step, of ~~causing~~ adding to job data ~~to include~~ ~~said the~~ image-formation data and a communication program procedure for communicating with an external unit; and

a control step, of controlling ~~said the~~ image formation in accordance with a result of communicating with ~~said the~~ external unit based on ~~said the~~ communication program procedure,

wherein ~~said the~~ communication program comprises procedure ~~is a~~ restriction procedure for restricting the use of ~~said the~~ image processing apparatus.

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34.

(Currently Amended) An image processing method for controlling an image processing apparatus connected to an external unit via a network, said image processing method comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving job data that includes image-formation data and a communication program for communicating with the external unit;

a communication step, of communicating with ~~said~~ the external unit;

an image processing step, of generating image data from the image-formation data;

C₁
an image output step, of outputting to a medium images based on ~~said~~ the image data; and

a control step, of controlling said image processing step and said image output step in accordance with a result of the communication with the external unit by executing the communication program in the job data, data;

~~wherein said communication step receives job data including said image-formation data and a procedure for communicating with said external unit, and said control step executes said procedure in said job data to communicate with said external unit, whereby controlling image-output processing based on said image-formation data in accordance with a result of the communication with said external unit;~~

wherein said job data is not required to be transmitted via a print server, and

~~said~~ the external unit ~~is~~ comprises an image-formation-history management unit for recording the history of the utilizing condition of ~~said~~ the image

C₁
C₂ processing apparatus for each user, and for restricting the use of said the image processing apparatus based on the number of formed images.
